

OCTOBER 1963 Crosby Post



A young crooner, with wife Dixie Lee, arrived to make "The Big Broadcast." His name was "Bing" Crosby



*Pennies
from Heaven*



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Material for Crosby Post should be sent in by the 10th of the month
prior to publication; i.e, for the June issue, material should be
sent in by May 10th.

An X here signifies your renewal is now due, we commence printing
the next issue of Crosby Post one Month after publication of this
issue, failure to renew before this date means you will miss the next
issue of the magazine, please therefore renew promptly.
Please forward your renewal direct to JACK MANNERS, membership rates
British Isles 10/- - Overseas \$2 (14/-) per Annum.
Please make ALL remittances payable to The British Crosby Society.

Crosby Post - October 1963 - 14th Year - "IN THIS ISSUE"

Page; 5..Croz-Talk.....	Jack Manners...
6..A Film Cameo.....	Ted Iaker.....
7..Tape Crosby Notes.....	Stan White ..
9..A Biography of Bing Crosby.....	Larry Crosby ..
15..Crosby Chatter.....	Les Gaylor.....
16..A personal letter from Bing.....	
17..Ralph Harding presents the Bing Crosby discography.....	
18..American Newsletter.....	Pat Sullivan...
20..Stars and Stripes Forever.....	Fred Reynolds..
22..Excerpts of a personal tape message from Bing.....	

The Bing Crosby Discography - see page 17 - send now to Frank Murphy.
Photo Section offers over 70 great photos of Bing, details from Bill
Hall - when writing to the clubs officers, please enclose a S.A.E.

EDITORIAL BY Frank Murphy

Once again its time to give a run down on yet another edition of Crosby Post - It's a most pleasant chore.

Having in mind the lack of real collector material in this issue I would remind those about to rush into print that I did forecast such a blow in the last issue. The main reason why so many regular and popular features have been omitted is because of the length of Larry's biog of Bing. Surprising to note that I had a few requests not to print this in Post and though I agree we already have most of the info on our files already I feel that Larry's opening three lines on page 9 were sufficient justification for my including it.

Over the years many people have dabbled in the club's affairs, but not many have 'stuck it. I well remember the invite extended to me in 1955 by Dot Hardiman to become editor of Crosby Post - I remember too the miserable editions I was responsible for and indeed it was 1961 and the acquisition of our present Rex Rotary M4 that finally gave me some moments of glory. The Post has been in the hands of many others and when Cecil Westrope disappeared into the backwoods in April 1962 it again fell to yours truly to take the reins once more - I asserted then and I still do now - I'll never again place the fate of Crosby Post in the hands of anyone unless it should become impossible for me to continue, or of course you should elect someone to take my place.

With the above points in mind I have some important news for you all..... -

As from the Christmas issue, Crosby Post will become a QUARTERLY magazine instead of the present bi-monthly one - but, instead of 6 issues containing 20 pages, per year, you will receive 4 issues containing at least 30 pages per year; Therefore you will still receive the same amount of Crosbyana per year for the same sub. This move has been made necessary for a number of reasons, among them the following;

- (1) The present mag does not allow enough room for the longer articles everyone wants in Post.
- (2) More photo pages are essential, but preparation of the stencils takes time - with the quarterly Post, the time will be more available and the cash saved on postage will help provide more photo pages.
- (3) Members critical of layout, presentation and typing errors should find the extra time available will help show an improvement on all three counts

When the quarterly Post comes into effect you will also find the club is more streamlined in its routine and you are asked to note the following points very carefully -

The X advising your sub is now due will still appear on page 2, but if you haven't renewed by the time the next issue is due, you won't receive a reminder and will in fact be crossed off the club file - also for reasons of economy, unless you have renewed within one month of receiving your X notification, you will not receive

cont on page 4

Editorial cont'

the next issue of Post - With issues of 30 to 40 pages we shall be printing a strictly limited edition for paid up members only - there will definately be no spare copy's available.

As I have decided to have a little more space myself this time I'd like to use just a little of it to express my appreciation to; - JACK MANNERS for his continued help on the clubs administration Renewals, members queries, raffles etc, etc, all recieve first class attention from Jack - a really worthy Co-Pres.

BILL HALL who has'nt long been a club officer, but a longtime club member has showed real enterprise since I appointed him to take charge of Photo and Disc section - The last auction of discs so kindly given the club by Jim Moor and Ted Burnell raised over £13 for club funds - a chore handled with great skill by our pal and I might add his handling of these sections of the clubs activity is a real relief for me.

And I must add a few words of thanks to STAN WHITE, BOB ROBERTS and RALPH HARDING for Crosby efforts of the highest degree; Stan with his eye ever on promoting the club continues to be a great scout as you'll read in the raffle news on page 6, also in the Tape Crosby article on page 7 and 8.

Bob and Ralph, two great people who have really made my day by allowing the club to present the Bing Crosby Discography - This is a dream I have cherished since the failure some years ago when we made such a hash of the then attempt. I've always had faith in the clubs ability to redeem itself - I'm happy now that my faith was justified. Bob (you great guy) was adamant that we could do it successfully and he overcame Ralph's justifiable cautiousness. - Ralph's appreciation of your humble editors efforts on the handle are more than welcome.

So now as the quarterly Post approaches may I have the assurance of your continued support - both in contributions for the mag and in loyal adherence - may I again apologize to those of you who have written me in recent months and to whom I've not replied, If I hav'nt replied you can bet I've been tied up with some other 'Crosby chore' but you can rest assured your letter was read and filed - and I do reply whenever possible - If you're with me, then I'm certainly with you and its my wish that the coming years will be shared by all of us as the most successful ever for the club - I'll be striving to that end with Jack Pat, Les and Bill and Stan, the Crosby Post contributors and YOU...

With best wishes to you and yours,

Bing-cerely

P. S.

Every Thursday evening at my home we have a great Bing session which is attended by a regular group of 8 or more local members - If YOU can make it you'll be assured of a great Crosby welcome from the gang The meeting kicks off with Bing's "YA'LL COME ! at 8 p.m. and winds up around 10.30 - " pop in won't yuh, sure and we'll give you a belt of bushmill"

"CROZ-TALK".....Co-Pres Jack Manners presents another
basin-full of his inimitable meanderings;-

Hello again,

And back on the trail, although for various reasons this issue has to be curtailed somewhat - I will be as brief as possible. Its a hard world Frank.....;-

However, with Bing the action seems to be picking up. Deals are cooking both on the Reprise and Capitol record labels and our appetites, keen as always, may soon to some extent be satisfied.

In spite of one or two adverse reports the maestro would appear to be his old self again; for which we must be thankful - And a fit Bing will surely give them all something to think about. Once things are swinging the publicity should follow automatically as people in the news will be recording with Bing, and to be honest this aspect gives me more pleasure than the fact that Mr C will be making more records. To hear Bing's name spoken of in the top flight of recording artists once again is something I had almost despaired of, but which I along with all of you have sincerely hoped for.

Assuming this optimism is well founded and Bing really hits the news again it may encourage the Decca boys to get out some singles from the IP range or from the old masters. Actually I see a good opportunity on both sides of the Atlantic to really play up Bing in spite of Mr Geoff Milnes negative replies to our hopeful suggestions at the last club meeting.

And we have to face it - these days in the record business, more than any other, you have to be 'with it' by playing up all angles and to strike whilst the iron is hot! This I think is one reason for the success of Frank Sinatra's Reprise venture - he has his eye on the business and never misses a trick - And now, tied up with this are our hopes of Bing clearing the high jumps again.

For reasons of my own I was not very keen at this news of Bing signing for the new label as I was hoping for big things from the Project venture which I should imagine has not worked out too well. But one thing I am sure of - we can rely on the maestro's judgment which is rarely at fault, so we can only wish him luck in these and future enterprises.

Recently I have had about six requests for a club badge - it could be that many more may be interested in these, although the last time we had a go at these the whole thing fell down very badly. Here is the position. If enough of you are interested to make it worthwhile we will have another try. These new badges would be made of either plastic or metal and would cost about 3/6 each. The smallest order we can place is for 100 so we would need at least 50 concrete orders before going ahead.

..... continued on page 6

Jack continues "CROZ-TALK"

..... will those of you having interest in the club badge please drop a line to me - but no money yet and if we get the required response we will let you know in the next Post and go on from there.

My thanks to all of you who have written to me lately and my apologies to Elsie Kennedy and Tony Mc Cormack for not answering their letters of thanks.

Cheerio and Good Luck until December Jack

TED IAKER presents A FILM CAMEO

"A LOOK AT "MR MUSIC"

In 1950 a film came along that was something of a 'tour de force' for Mr Crosby. It was MR MUSIC" The picture was filled with good things and Bing had the support of some fine character actors - the droll Tom Ewell and the crusty Charles Coburn to name just two. The story, dealing with a lazy song writer more addicted to golf than hit-parade composing fitted Crosby like a glove. Most of the songs were tuneful though not necessarily in the top bracket. One hilarious scene featured Bing with Groucho Marx doing one of the big numbers "Life is so peculiar" pity a sound track disc of this item was't issued. Another high spot was the maestro duetting with top operatic star Dorothy Kirsten on "Accidents will happen" But probably the scene that held most surprise for Crosby admirers was the interlude where he sang "And you'll be home" seated on a stage during a college concert, after being cajoled into taking part in the proceedings. The delivery of the song was almost in a straight singing manner for Bing, then coming back to his familiar style as the song proceeded.

Yes, the film certainly had some good things, and also, as indicated in these brief notes held more than a few surprises;

SUPER CLUB RAFFIE:

closing date November 10th

1st prize; A 10" Crosby LP IA8727 "Collectors Classics" Vol 4
new condition - Kindly donated by STAN WHITE

2nd prize; A 10/- record voucher - kindly donated by TED IAKER

3rd prize; 10 post card photos of Bing from Photo Section
of the winners choice . Over 70 to choose from.

Tickets price 1/- each are available from JACK MANNERS and all proceeds are in aid of our fund to provide more photo pages in CROSBY POST .

Thanks to the efforts of Stan White we are building up a fantastic collection of magazine cuttings of Bing photos, the more success we have with these raffles, the more extra photo pages we can have so why not ask your friends to chip in, in the end the whole club will benefit.....

TAPE CROSBY NOTES.

by STAN WHITE.

"Tape Crosby" will re-commence circulation approx., 2 weeks after publication of the OCTOBER edition of CROSBY POST. Those people wishing to take part on Tape Crosby should send their name and address to me PRINTED clearly on a post card (letter if you prefer) within two weeks following receipt of this issue. (U.K. members only) This applies to former contributors also.

Anyone not sending to me within the first two weeks will find that they will not be included until the second round, Round Number two. This is to ensure that the circulation lists are perfectly in order from the start of the round.

Technical details for equipment required to record on - and play back Tape Crosby, are as follows. You must be able to use a 7 inch spool of tape, to be able to record at $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches per second at Half Track (2 track)

Each person taking part on Tape Crosby must pay the forwarding postage to the next person. Otherwise there is no extra fee for joining in on the tape. A list is enclosed with each round of the tape, this list contains the names and addresses of the people taking part, each person is numbered, and as the tape reaches you, all you do is to write at the side of your name - the date you received the tape, then before you pack the tape up again after listening to the comments and adding your own bit, just take note of the persons name and address which follows your own, and pass the tape on. Whenever possible you should pass the tape on within a week of it reaching you, in order to keep things moving.

Always package the tape securely, so that the wrapping will not come adrift in the post, AND PLEASE ALWAYS SEND THE TAPE BY RECORDED DELIVERY. This will only cost sixpence extra and will be a bigger safeguard against loss.

As I cannot at this stage know how many people will be taking part, this next part is difficult to access, however, each person will not be allowed more than 10 minutes time on any one round, I'm sure this is sufficient.

On the first round, one tape will be in use, on the second round 2 tapes will be in use, one tape to record on - the other containing the completed round for all to hear.

This first round of the New Series of Tape Crosby is a very special one, because each member will be asked to include in his or her contribution - A direct message to Bing Crosby himself. Those people who have talked to Bing in person will know that he is very nice to get along with, and there is no need for you to put on your best Oxford accent, or think up a lot of flattering things to say. Just talk to Bing about whatever topic you wish to tell him about, - his records, TV shows, films, golf, fishing, family, anything, and as it is a personal message from us all to Bing, I see no reason why it should not contain short musical illustrations if you wish.

continued on page 8

So if you wish to be in on this, get your name and address to me within the first two weeks after receiving your C.P. and please PRINT the details CLEARLY.

In order to ensure that the tape does not get lost again, I have accepted the suggestion made by Frank Murphy to ask everyone to use "Recorded Delivery", apparently the Post Office are also in favour of this.

If a Crosby enthusiast applies to me for a place on Tape Crosby, who is not a member of the Society, due to the fact that he or she may have learned of the tape through Tape Magazines or Tape Clubs, that person will be allowed to join the circle, but naturally we shall make a point of trying to enrol that person into the ranks of the Society. This is a thing which could happen, and we do not intend turning any Crosby enthusiasts away, and the chances are that they will join the Society anyway, once they know about it.

John Chapman, a London organist has recorded a special version of, 'BLUE OF THE NIGHT' to introduce the tape which will go to Bing. Whether we retain the recording for future use will depend upon members reactions to it.

..... The end

56, Thorold Road - Chatham - Kent.

26, Thorold Road - Chatham - Kent.((((((((((((((((

LARRY CROSBY presents A BIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY

Numerous biographies and millions of words have been written about Bing, some not too accurate. This one is documented by the files in the Crosby offices.

On the maternal side, the name is Harrigan.

The name "Crosby" is Danish in origin and means "Town of the Cross". There is a tourist chateau by this name still standing above a fiord in Denmark.

The Harrigan side was two generations out of County Cork in Ireland. The Crosby branch migrated to Ireland, thence to England and trace through marriage to William Brewster of the Mayflower and Simon Crosby who immigrated to New England in 1635.

Immediate Crosby ancestors were sea captains who helped found Portland and Olympia, Washington, and started trade with the Orient.

Dennis Harrigan settled in Tacoma. He was a building contractor and his five sons were respectively a lather, plasterer, plumber, carpenter, and electrician. They were strapping big fellows and could build a house or win a fight without outside help. George was a robust baritone who helped make famous the song "Harrigan, that's me"

Kate Harrigan sang with the church choir and did amateur theatricals. Harry Crosby played mandolin and cornet. Harry Lillis (Bing) was born May 2, 1904 of their marriage.

His unparalleled success stems from the determination, love of music and light hearted spirit of his ancestors.

Bing has probably sold more recordings than any other human in history -- including such standards as "White Christmas" "I Surrender Dear" and "Silent Night". Crosby was the first crooner to do an Hawaiian tune -- "Sweet Leilani" -- and the first to invade the western field ("Empty Saddles, etc.") The folk music field (albums of Spanish and Irish tunes), the religious field ("Silent Night" and "Adeste Fidelis, plus other hymns). He set the pattern for virtually every other pops singer to follow. His gimmick was his informality and intimacy. It still is. There's nothing gooey or sticky about Crosby. He's the sort of guy you instinctively call by his first name before you're even introduced.

In 1960, he was presented a platinum record as "First Citizen of the Record Industry" on sales of more than 200 million records. The top one still is "Silent Night" according to royalty statements.

With the exception of the legitimate stage (and he has turned down numerous bids for plays) there's not an area of conventional show business Crosby has not explored and generally dominated. After more than a quarter century in films, he is still one of the few performers whose name on the marquee guarantees a profit.

continued on page 10

Biography cont'

He has his choice of radio sponsors and led the field in transcribing his weekly airshow on tape rather than broadcasting live. His rare television appearances have occasioned only rave comments. Critics acknowledge him a polished actor and there's no doubt he can do as well theatrically without music as with it. As a raconteur and master of ceremonies, he is hardly excelled. And in the realm of business, Crosby ranks among the smartest executives, delegating authority with enviable talent and managing to keep his varied interests -- which range from producing films for TV to financing and marketing -- well-integrated by a loyal, energetic staff, and smoothly functioning with no apparent effort on his part. He's in the low seventies at golf.

Along with brothers Larry, Everett, Ted and Bob and sisters Mary Rose and Catherine, Bing was moved by his parents to Spokane in 1906 and schooled at Webster Public Grade School and Gonzaga High and University. His father was a bookkeeper with wages far from munificent, so all the clan took part-time employment after school hours.

Bing's boyhood was busy but normal. He was nicknamed "Bing" at age seven because he was enthusiastic about a Sunday newspaper comic strip titled "Bingville Bugle." The first record he ever heard was the "Merry Widow Waltz" when he was four.

When he was eight, he was spanked for swimming in the river. Four years later, in 1916, he won seven swim medals. He had a morning paper route for the Spokane Spokanan-Review when he was nine, rising at four each dawn and frequently trudging through heavy snows.

He recalls that he was the winner in his first schoolboy fight in 1914. He tangled with the other chap who called his sister Mary Rose, "fatty." He played grade school baseball, high school football, freshman football and varsity baseball at Gonzaga. During his college days, he sang in the glee club, appeared in amateur minstrel shows, and played drums and took part in debates. He pursued the study of law in college, also worked after hours in the office of a Spokane legal firm.

Summers he worked on a farm, picked pickles or did KP duty at a logging camp. The "Pickle Picker" later donated a handsome library to his alma mater.

His first taste of show business came via a job as assistant flunky in the prop department of the Auditorium Theater in Spokane, where he rubbed shoulders with such greats as Al Jolson, Willie and Eugene Howard and the Stars who toured with George White's Scandals and other shows.

Crosby's earliest actual theatrical experiences were elocution contests at school where he debated and orated reciting such heroic stanzas as Robert W. Service's "The Spell of the Yukon" and "The Shooting of Dan McGrew." Today Crosby's diction is so clear in song that listeners understand his every word, and his vocabulary so large that his fluency of expression amazes all who hear him. Both these traits stem from his Jesuit school training in public speaking.

At college Bing joined a band called the Musicaladers, playing a set of drums his dad gave him for Christmas. To this day, he has never studied music. With him in the outfit was Al Rinker, whose sister Mildred later won fame as Mildred Bailey, blues singer extraordinary. Through a variety of engagements, the personnel of the band changed until only Rinker and Crosby remained of the original combination.

When Crosby eventually realised he was earning as much money with the band in his spare time as with the law firm full time, he and Rinker bought an old jalopy for \$8. adorned it copiously with teenage slogans, tapped brother Larry (then a newspaper reporter) for eating money -- and a ton of advice, and headed South for Los Angeles. Neither the jalopy nor the drums survived the journey, having been bartered for sandwiches. They played vaudeville around the country a while and then caught on with Paul Whiteman's band in 1926; where they became the Rhythm Boys and were joined by Harry Barris. They toured with Whiteman three years, appeared with him in "The King of Jazz" in 1930 -- Bing's first movie -- and left the orchestra to remain in California when Whiteman finally headed East for a long stay.

When the Gus Arnheim band played the Cocoanut Grove (Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel) the Rhythm Boys became favorites of the movie stars who thronged the spot and millions of radio listeners who heard pick-ups on the networks.

Mack Sennett spotted Crosby at the Grove and signed him for eight short subjects distributed by Paramount. In these brevities he sang "I Surrender, Dear", "The Blue of the Night" (which is still his theme), "Just One More Chance" and other well remembered songs. This led to a recording contract with Brunswick and when Decca was formed buying out Brunswick, Bing went along to the new label. Prior to his first fame with Whiteman, however, he recorded with several bands for several labels without even getting his name on the discs.

Bing Crosby first heard of Dixie Lee in 1929. Her real name was Wilma Winnifred Wyatt, she was Tennessee-born and raised in New Orleans. She won a contest as "the girl who sang most like Ruth Etting" and came to Hollywood under contract to Fox. One evening she came to the Montmartre, A Los Angeles club, where Crosby was appearing. Her date, Frankie Albertson introduced her to Crosby and a romance ensued. Everyone warned Miss Lee, then a rising young star, not to marry Bing, a virtual unknown.

"She married me anyhow," (on Sept 20, 1930) writes Bing. "One of the things they threw at Dixie was that she'd have to support me the rest of her life. She did support me the rest of her life -- but not the way they meant... The support she gave me was more important than money. She was a faithful and loyal wife and a wise and loving mother. We could always count on her for the truth about ourselves, which is a rare and helpful commodity in Hollywood. Our marriage was regarded as newsworthy to the press because of Dixie -- not me. The papers even fouled up my name. 'WELL KNOWN FOX MOVIE STAR MARRIED BING CROVENY' the headlines read." (Mrs Crosby died on Nov. 1, 1952.)

cont on page 12

Biography cont'

Early in his career Bing's management was taken over by his brother Everett, who gave up his job as a truck salesman to handle the lad. Everett steered him to a contract in New York with the Columbia Broadcasting System in 1931, and Bing went on the air several nights a week. His success was almost instantaneous. He broke house records for 20 consecutive weeks at the Paramount Theater and was signed by Paramount to make The Big Broadcast Of 1932. The rest is fabulous history -- even for Hollywood.

Today Bing's enterprises are so varied they would keep any other tycoon fully occupied, but to Bing they're just icing on the cake. Everett remains one of his business managers and Larry helps with the office management and handles Bing's public relations, charities, music, research, and golf tournament. Their headquarter on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, with the TV production unit in the Desilu Studios in Hollywood.

During the war he helped sell 14½ million in war bonds, toured the English, French and German Zones entertaining troupes, made numerous broadcasts and transcriptions for the services, and supported Larry with royalties from the "Silent Night" record in taking show troupes to many camps in America.

Bing owns a home in Palm Desert, a place at Rancho Las Cruces in Baja on the Bay of Cortez, Mexico, the Beverly Hills home in which he and his family make their Los Angeles headquarters, and a northern California ranch. A passionate lover of golf, he stages the annual Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur Golf Championship Tourney with \$50,000 in prizes at Pebble Beach, California, which has grossed almost one and a half million for youth activities.

The list of Crosbyana on celluloid includes many of the finest musicals ever made -- "Too Much Harmony", "Pennies From Heaven" and "Doctor Rhythm" among the earlier ones (a complete list follows at the end of this sketch) but his greatest fame today is as a dramatic actor and light comedian. He won the Academy Award in 1944 for "Going My Way", was nominated for Best Actor just 10 years later for his portrayal in "The Country Girl" in which he starred with William Holden and Grace Kelly. Bing liked to recall how he happened to appear in "Going My Way"

"Leo McCarey was an old racetrack and football pal," relates Bing, "and he always threatened to use me in one of his pictures. After years of joking along this line one day he finally said he wanted me to play a priest. I told him the church simply wouldn't stand for that sort of casting. Leo said it would. He told me his idea and when he was finished there wasn't a dry eye in the place. Paramount's brass thought Leo was all wrong. They couldn't see me in a long, black buttoned-down robe. But Buddy DeSylva went along with Leo. Buddy was Paramount's studio production chief. We got the go-ahead.

"I don't think when Leo started that he even had a full story in mind. He had his characters -- Barry Fitzgerald and me -- but we

were never sure what we'd be doing from morning to afternoon. He made it up as we went along".

Crosby made "Bell's of St Mary's" for McCarey a short time later teamed with Ingrid Bergman. There followed such items as "Welcome Stranger", "Road To Rio" and others. Crosby has more pictures ranked among the all time top money makers than any other star. In some pictures he has a partnership interest. Her listed among the top 10 stars for fifteen years; now just does an occasional picture.

Bing's boys from his first marriage are Gary, born June 25, 1933, Phillip and Dennis, twins, July 13, 1934, and Lindsay, Jan 5, 1938. In 1957 he married Olive Grandstaff (Kathryn Grant) and their children are Harry L., born Aug 8, 1958, Mary Frances, Sept 14, 1959 and Nathaniel P., Oct 29, 1961. Kathryn, a former beauty winner was a rising young star in her own right. Now is a very busy mother.

Bing apparently inherits his easy-going ways from his father. Dad just never believed in worrying. He was't successful in business, by some peoples standards... but it never worried him. He was a wonderful happy guy. He even died smiling. He was a great home lover and his last words were, "I'm going home".

He lived to see his boy Bing become one of the worlds few living legends, a guy who criss-crossed the continent and the world entertaining troops during and after the war, a man whose charities are multifold but unpublicized, a household name wherever people have contact with a phonograph, radio, TV set, movie theater or the printed word.

VITAL STATISTICS

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REAL NAME: Harry Lillis Crosby; BIRTHDATE: May 2, 1904; BIRTHPLACE: Tacoma, Washington, moved to Spokane in 1906; HEIGHT: Five feet, nine and half inches; WEIGHT: 175 pounds; HAIR: Brown; EYES: Blue; EDUCATION: Gonzaga University, 1921-1924, studied law but withdrew before graduation, honorary degree of Doctor of Music; CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Drummer, school orchestra, 1921; Dance band, 1922-1924; vaudeville, "2 Boys and a Piano", 1925-1926; Signed with Whiteman 1926; "King of Jazz", 1930; "Rhythm Boys" at Cocoanut Grove, 1931-1932; Columbia Broadcasting System, 1932 and "Big Broadcast", Paramount, 1932 (first featured role). ACADEMY AWARD: Best actor of 1944 for his performance in "Going My Way"

cont' on page 14

Biography conclusion;

Bing Crosby's films include;

KING OF JAZZ
 THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1932
 COLLEGE HUMOUR
 GOING HOLLYWOOD
 TOO MUCH HARMONY
 WE'RE NOT DRESSING
 SHE LOVES ME NOT
 HERE IS MY HEART
 MISSISSIPPI
 THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1936
 ANYTHING GOES
 RHYTHM ON THE RANGE
 PENNIES FROM HEAVEN
 WAIKIKI WEDDING
 DOUBLE OR NOTHING
 DOCTOR RHYTHM
 TWO FOR TONIGHT
 SING YOU SINNERS
 PARIS HONEYMOON
 EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN
 THE STAR MAKER
 ROAD TO SINGAPORE
 IF I HAD MY WAY
 RHYTHM ON THE RIVER
 ROAD TO ZANZIBAR
 BIRTH OF THE BLUES
 HOLIDAY INN
 ROAD TO MOLCCO
 STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM

DIXIE
 GOING MY WAY
 HERE COME THE WAVES
 ROAD TO UTOPIA
 DUFFY'S TAVERN
 BELLS OF ST. MARY'S
 BLUE SKIES
 WELCOME STRANGER
 THE EMPEROR WALTZ
 VARIETY GIRL
 ROAD TO RIO
 A CONNECTICUT YANKEE
 TOP O' THE MORNING
 RIDING HIGH
 MR MUSIC
 HERE COMES THE GROOM
 JUST FOR YOU
 ROAD TO BALI
 LITTLE BOY LOST
 WHITE CHRISTMAS
 THE COUNTRY GIRL
 ANYTHING GOES
 HIGH SOCIETY
 MAN ON FIRE
 SAY ONE FOR ME
 HIGH TIME
 ROAD TO HONG KONG

* In a letter
 * recieved from
 * the Crosby
 * Office dated
 * August 20. 1963
 * Larry conveyed
 * the following-;

* "It may be of
 * interest that
 * the young lady
 * who did the
 * typing, Kathy
 * Harrigan, is a
 * cousin from
 * Spokane who
 * worked here
 * during college
 * vacation.

* Best to all

* LARRY

* *****

By Larry Crosby

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official journal of The British Crosby Society

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR BING AND KATHRYN

As is customary every Christmas-tide, we have an annual subscription to which all members are invited to subscribe in order that the club can send Mr & Mrs Bing a present at this happy time.

Your contribution should reach Jack Manners not later than Nov 6th and in the next Crosby Post we shall print a complete list together with details of this years choice - your ideas may accompany your donation.

 We recently printed a very attractive leaflet giving full details of how our club for Bing is organised - if you feel you could help distribute a few of these, Jack Manners would be only too pleased to comply with your request for some.....

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+ Hello members,

+ Continuing my Crosby Chatter from the last issue of
 + Crosby Post I would like to mention that many times of late I have
 + read the reference to Elvis Presley as being the king. Being as I
 + like the facts put in the true perspective I have sent out a number
 + of letters diplomatically explaining who is the real King of the
 + disc world. But certain people are not prepared to give credit where
 + it is due for fear of creating a dillusion among the teenagers.
 + Bing as Bing is still more than 100,000,000 records in the lead over
 + Presley (and don't forget Les that Bing old as well as latest discs
 + are still selling-frank) he obviously is the King as is recognised
 + by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.
 + Jimmy Saville disc critic of the People was over generous recently
 + when he gave Presley over 100 million record sales he was'nt entitled
 + too - I enlightened Mr Saville with the true facts and after this long
 + while he still has'nt replied.

+ A number of members have recently asked my opinion of Bing's best
 + recording years and I'd say he was real super in 1933 to 1935. On the
 + other hand I like his latest recordings better than say his 1931
 + discs and in certain cases those made right through his career.
 + To prove Bing was super in 1933/35 one only has to compare his
 + terrific early "Temptati'n" or "Please" to the later ones. Then on
 + the other hand his version of "Out of Nowhere" on the Autobiography
 + discs is better I think than the 1931 version.
 + However, he's been great all the way through and the latest "I wish
 + you a Merry Christmas" IP shows him to be in better form than times
 + in earlier years.

+ Just as point of interest to show that Bing on one or two occasions
 + has'nt recorded all the songs allocated to him, for example on
 + July 1st 1955 he recorded "Angel Bells" and "Let's harmonize" he
 + was due also to record a song called "Artichokes" but this was
 + recorded on May 3rd 1956 by Tex Williams. Another time he recorded
 + "Open up your heart" and "You don't know what lonesome is" he was
 + due to record "Windmill on a hill" but this was done later by Alan
 + Dale who by the way enjoyed great popularity here rather similar to
 + that now enjoyed by Michael Holliday and Matt Monro. He emigrated
 + to the U.S. and so far as Britain was concerned he became a 'fallen
 + idol'

+ ++++++

+ and so we conclude this holdover Crosby Chatter from Les Gaylor
 + and on your behalf we invite Les to submit an extra large portion
 + of his newsy piece for the Christmas Post ++++++

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any of you interested in finding Pen Pal's through the club? if you
 are then send me fullest details on yourself in time to reach me by
 Nov 10th - memo to Frances Saint, I'm sorry Frances but I've mislaid
 your request - would be grateful if you'd send it again - frank
 The final date for your TOP TEN'S is also Nov 10th - this series will
 wind up with a listing of the clubs officers favourites and (we hope)
 the favourites of BING and LARRY. After which Keith Hyde will present
 a summary Top Ten covering the whole series - send your in now.....

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD

August 12, 1963

Dear Frank;

Thanks for your letter with all the news. Yes, I'm doing an Hawaiian album for Frank Sinatra's Reprise group in a few days. We've got the tunes pretty well lined up now, and Nelson Riddle is doing the arrangements, and we hope to get a very unusual back-ground with the Hawaiian predominant of course, but with some nice musicianship also featured.

I believe the "King Serenade" is going to be included. Its one of the ones that we have high on the list.

I did a couple of tunes with Frank and Dean for the Reprise label - an album covering four of the big Broadway musical shows. Dean and Frank and I did "The Traveling Crap Game" and "Tugue for Tinhorns" and I have to do a duet with Debbie Reynolds on "Something Sort of Grandish" from Finian's Rainbow and a solo on "Younger than Springtime" from South Pacific.

There is also a possibility I'll do a Christmas album with Frank, using the Fred Waring orchestra and choir, if we can find suitable material.

We're doing some things over at Capitol records. An album called THE TRAVELING TWO BEAT" which will be sort of a musical tour of the world, taking the principal song in each capitol, and doing it in Dixieland style. Bobby Darin and Peggy Lee might be in this album with me, and Evans and Livingston have written a great song to open and close the album, called "Traveling Two Beat". Also they've done a lot of special lyrics for use on the songs of each country.

Capitol is also gathering material for a possible country and western album - or I guess you might properly call it a "Folk Album". There's quite a vogue for this stuff in the States just now.

We are getting the television shows ready - four to be done this year. The first to be taped in September, so I guess you'll probably see that one in England.

And I might be doing a picture with Frank and his group over at Warners called "Robin and the Seven Hoods". Also have a couple of other pictures that are under serious consideration.

I'm playing a good deal of golf just now, and playing rather well too, for an old gaffer. It's certainly a relaxation - this game, and probably the only game there is where a fella my age can still turn in a creditable performance.

Give my very best to all the members and to your self and family -

As ever

signed

BC:In

BING

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY proudly announces its latest publication: THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY) is now ready for distribution. A few weeks ago when a Bing Crosby Society meeting was held at the home of Jack Manners, the Editor of Crosby Post asked Ralph S. Harding if he would be prepared to produce a BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY similar to that which has been in production for Vintage Jazz Mart during the last two years. Ralph agreed to produce this discography on condition that he prepared and cut all the stencils for printing and that all gross receipts should go entirely to the funds of the Crosby Post. The whole project was a closely guarded secret until we were in a position to announce publication.

The discography consists of 68 pages and features every known recording by BING from 1926 to 1934 until the end of the Brunswick recording sessions. It is without any doubt, the most informative and comprehensive Bing Crosby Discography yet produced and represents the combined work of a team of four expert Bing discographers who have been collating Crosbyana information over many years. The discography is illustrated and includes a photograph of the label of that great rarity "Face The Music Medley" and an original etching of Bing. Publication is limited to 150 copies and each copy is numbered.

A few production facts may interest readers ...
75 quarto stencils were typed by Ralph in 10 days spread over one month. This involved typing as many as 10 stencils in one night (average time for each stencil was approximately 50 minutes).
Frank Murphy turned the handle of the duplicator approximately 15,000 times (allowing for spare copies and spoilage) Anyone recommend a good embrocation? If all the sheets were laid end to end from Picadilly Circus, it would look b....y untidy and the "Keep Britain Tidy" guardians would go raving mad! After several days solid work Diana Harding had to introduce her children to their father ... they'd forgotten what he looked like.

A few enthusiasts have already seen a preview copy. They comment

LES PHYTHIAN A remarkable piece of work, it's a staggering achievement and five bob seems a 'give away' price for such a gem of research and specialized know-how.

JACK MANNERS This is absolutely fantastic ... wonderful publicity for the Post.

FRANK GRANT The best ever ... you can put me down for four copies.

BOB ROBERTS I'm proud to be associated with this discography. This is the finest Bing discog yet produced.

FRANK MURPHY If this discography doesn't sell, I'll dis-associate myself from all future publications.

PRESIDENT OF THE ELVIS PRESLEY FAN CLUB Who is Bing Crosby?

Seriously though friends, no collector of Bing Crosby records can afford to be without this book. Remember there are only 150 copies and first come, first served. THIS WILL NOT BE REPEATED. Over 2,000 catalogue numbers listed, full notes on all alternate masters, over 230 masters and titles listed, full comprehensive index, full detail of interesting notes, recording data and valuation code.

SEND FOR YOUR COPY NOW 5/6d POST FREE (the original etching of Bing is worth that alone) We are so confident about this discography that we will refund unconditionally to anyone returning their copy.

Pat Sullivan bounces back in great form with this months

"AMERICAN NEWSLETTER"

Hi Frank,

Here are a few early clippings for the next journal -

BING CROSBY LOOKING FOR A GOOD SCRIPT

Bing Crosby, who has'nt had a screen role in a couple of years and is fretting about it - is back from fishing vacations and reading prospective movie scripts between daily rounds of golf. "You loaf around just so much and you get mighty fretful" explained Bing, "I'm looking for a good fun picture"

The words were barely out before Walt Disney, Paramount and MGM began showering him with prospective subjects.

FRANK SINATRA SIGNS UP BING CROSBY - July 20
BIG DEAL FOR FRANK'S COMPANY

Frank Sinatra announced yesterday that Bing Crosby had signed with his company, Reprise Records, for future recordings. The association combines two of the worlds biggest record sellers. Crosby's first assignment will be a Christmas album with Sinatra.

Sinatra did not give specific details on financial arrangements or duration of the contract. Sinatra said only that it is a "term contract which calls for a specific number of LP's each year.

A spokesman said it is unlikely the agreement would involve a departure from the highly successful popular songs in which Crosby and Sinatra have achieved distinction over the years.

It is the first major recording contract Crosby has entered into other than his long period with Decca Records.

In 1960 Crosby became the first artist in recording history to sell over 200 million records.

LYON'S DEN - by Leonard Lyons - July 27, 1963

Last week Frank Sinatra announced that his recording company, Reprise, had signed Bing Crosby.

Exactly 20 years ago Crosby was invited to a conference with the late Jack Kapp, head of Decca Records. It was the Crosby-Kapp association that had Decca Records to the forefront of the industry. At this 1943 conference Kapp showed Bing their contract, which still had two and a half years to run; "You'll be 43 when this expires"

"And 43" said Kapp solemnly, "is not young for a singer"

Crosby nodded...Kapp continued; "And those newcomers are climbing fast -- those Sinatra's. Climbing fast. So would you mind if we tore up our contract?"...Crosby said "O.K." bitterly, and tore up the contract. "And now" said Kapp, "Would you mind signing this new contract which as an additional 10 years to run?". He submitted the document to Crosby. "You'll be 53 when it expires. And I'm sure that at 53 you'll still be the best singer around". Crosby signed it. Sinatra evidently believes that Crosby, at 60, remains the best singer around.

When I saw Bing Crosby at a party recently, he said, "Louella, for heaven's sake, tell everybody I'm feeling fine. I'm tired of this 'sick' talk" And to prove how fit and sassy he is, Mr C has joined Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr in "Robin and the Seven Hoods" at Warner Bros. This is the second recent tie-up between Crosby and Sinatra, Bing having cut a new record for Warner Bros - Reprise Records, but it is the first time Bing and Frank have worked together in a movie since "High Society" in 1955. Co-producer Howard Koch puts "Robin" before the cameras in October, Crosby has made one request - he wants time off to beam his TV special on November 7.

HEDDA HOPPER - August 19

Bing Crosby has never seen his wife Kathy act. He was dubious when she decided to do "Sunday in New York" at the Avondale Playhouse in Indianapolis. Before the opening she got this wire from him "We're all saying a little prayer for you, if anything untoward occurs, just look at the audience and say, I've been very busy," Kathy not only remembered her lines, she broke Myrna Loy's house record and signed to repeat in Warren, Ohio in September. Bing will be in Minneapolis golfing but has promised if she does the play in La Jolla he'll go to see her.

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Pat will be back in December with more news plus a bumper helping of our suspended serial - BING AND I -

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COMEDY SPOT

	in a recent issue of Post Bill Hall suggested that
+ members	+ send in their pet hate among Bing's records
+ compared	+ and I suppose this could be termed the reverse of
+ by	+ that popular feature Top Ten Spot - anyway there's
+ Frank	+ only one entry so far - more are welcome - so here's
+ <u>Murphy</u>	+ BILL COEN of Cheshire with a very funny 'Pet Hate'

Hello fellow members,

I have never yet made a contribution to Post but I would like to chip in with my pet hate - much easier to pick than a genuine favourite!

As my pet hate I nominate without hesitation "THANKS" which I first picked up on DB 2056. From then on whenever I found a solitary Crosby in a junk shop after searching through piles and piles of worthless material, you could bank on it being "Thanks" - I must have passed over hundreds of copies of "Thanks" from 6d to 15/- each. The last of the Columbia's to be finally deleted was "Thanks". I grew sick of the sound of my own record of this song and the last straw came when I paid 7/6 for a special Film Star record (Bruns 01707) featuring Bing, and when I got it home and played it to a breathless hush from my friends, what should emerge but the same old weary sound again - "Thanks" - I never want to see it or hear it again and the only bright spot of the whole business is that even the LP re-issue is now deleted so it is no longer available in any form.....

As this article was written on 4th July (USA Independence Day 1776) and President Kennedy has made a brief recent visit to this country it is appropriate enough to say a few words about "The Star Spangled Banner". The melody of this famous anthem was originally that of "To Anacreon in Heaven" an English ballad written about 1775 by John Stafford Smith as the constitutional song for the London Anacreontic Society. This Society was founded by a group of aestetes and art lovers in honour of the Greek poet Anacreon who had written in praise of wine and women and who died fittingly at the age of 85 by choking on a grape seed. "To Anacreon in Heaven" became very popular in America and was freely appropriated for many different lyrics. The absence of copyright laws enabled this to be done with impunity a state of affairs which, a century later, exceedingly galled Gilbert and made Sullivan seethe.

The words of "The Star Spangled Banner" were written in 1814 by a young lawyer from Baltimore, Francis Scott Key, who had previously used the same melody for another of his poems. During the war of 1812 the British captured and held prisoner an American physician, Dr William Beanes and Key was chosen to lead a commission to the British fleet anchored off Fort McHenry in Baltimore to seek the doctor's release. The mission was successful but as Key and his party arrived on the British vessel shortly before an attack was launched on Fort McHenry they were compelled to stay aboard and during the night of 13th-14th September 1814 they watched the battle. When, at dawn after witnessing the British bombardment, Key saw the American flag still flying over the fort he is said to have spontaneously expressed his joy with a set of verses scribbled on an envelope - a classic situation which, strangely enough, has not yet been re-enacted for a technicolour film spectacular.

On the day following the battle Key and his party returned to Baltimore and on the same day his verses were issued under the title "The Defense of Fort McHenry". Singer Ferdinand Durang introduced the song in a Baltimore tavern. Soon afterwards the verses were published in two Baltimore newspapers and, under the new title of "The Star Spangled Banner" were issued by Carr's Music Store. After the civil and Spanish wars the song attained a national significance and became generally regarded as the national anthem even by the Army and Navy which had their own service anthems. It finally achieved official status by an act of Congress on 3rd of March 1931, the Bill being signed by President Hoover.

What you may well ask, has all this to do with Crosby? - well, - "Uncle Sam without whiskers" has twice recorded the anthem for commercial issue, first in March 1939, supported by John Scott Trotters orchestra and Max Terr's mixed chorus and again on 15th August 1946 as a dramatic recitation accompanied by the Victor Young Orchestra (original music score by Victor Young) The first recording was issued in England on Brunswick 02810 but the second was unissued here. In the USA it appeared on Decca 23999 and 40035.

Many singers have had difficulties with it. The range covers an octave and a fifth often resulting in either a growl on "say" or a shriek on "glare" and "free", and it is interesting to see how Bing copes with the problem. Originally the tune moved progressively upwards on "rockets red" reaching the top note on "red" and repeating it on "glare"

with a repetition of this arrangement, but a tone lower on "bursting in air" This seems to be the logically musical way to approach the high note and is the one that Bing adopts but many sing a repetition of the first note of the ascending scale on "rockets" and "bursting" and so hit the top note without preparation or warning. Francis Scott Key originally wrote "the bomb" not "the bombs" (Bing gives us both versions) and to avoid a wrongly stressed "the" some singers omit it or, as Bing does, very slightly change the rhythm. In the last verse Key wrote "when our cause is just" not "for our cause is just" and the original is faithfully followed in both the Crosby recordings. After the word "free" which is usually held slightly, the singer originally came down by the third and key note but it is now usually sung, as Bing does, by dropping immediately to the key-note on "and".

It is unlikely, I imagine, that many of us play these recordings very often, but they are interesting, particularly the first one. Bing sounds a little uneasy with some of his notes and his pausing for breath in the title phrase is particularly unfortunate. On the whole, however, it is a very good effort at a very difficult song but never "vintage" Bing.

-----Fred Reynolds-----

THE POLL RESULTS - Yours favourite articles from the August issue;

The response to the voting cards was a little better this time as another dozen or so members sent the card in - this is still no where near as many who should, so as the majority of members don't appear to be interested in this special feature it is being discontinued. I can't understand why the simple request card could'nt be sent in by more members, surely they can't be all that diss-interested but there it is and other good feature goes by the board. I would like to thank those members who did take the trouble to send the cards in, your comments and points have all been noted - now to the result.....

- 1st - WHAT PRICE THOSE EARLY BING'S by RALPH HARDING
- 2nd - CROZ-TALK..... by JACK MANNERS
- 3rd - THE HIT PARADE..... by KEN McMANUS
- 4th - FILM NOTE No Two..... by LES PHYTHIAN
- 5th - CROSBY CHATTER..... by LES GAYLOR

a product highly recommended to
Announcing THE GLOBAL SPEED-ERASE -; members with tape recorders.

Details regarding the new product have just been recieved and members who are looking for something which will completely and speedily erase your tapes, even those which have been badly over-recorded. In addition the Speed erase can be used for the removal of residual magnetisation of recording heads, in the majority of cases without the removal of recording head protective covering, will find this new product of great use

Members interested, and friends who are non members too can obtain a free leaflet by writing to the following address....-

GLOBAL PRODUCTS, 13 Stanley Street, Rothwell, Northants.

If you decide to purchase The Global Speed Erase, please mention you are a club member as we recieve a small discount on sales to members.

AUCTION/MART offers a few 'Bing's' which have just come into the clubs 'record bank' - please send your bids to BILL HALL by the closing date which is October 30th.

Brunswicks

01993-Swanee River/Its easy to remember; -E+
 02873-El Rancho Grande/Poor old Rover; -E+
 02805-Stardust/I cried for you; -E+
 02839-An apple for the teacher/Still the bluebird sings; -G+
 02807-Home on the range/Down by the old mill stream; -E
 02974-Sweet potato piper/Between 18/19 on chestnut street; -E
 02315-Where the blue of the night/Dancing in the dark; -E+
 03837-You don't have to know the language/-palachicola, FLA.; -E+
 03889-Laroo laroo lili bolero/Dance ballerina dance; -E
 03390-The singing sands of Alamosa/Conchita, Marquita Lopez; -G+
 02881-Ciribiribin/Yodelin Jive; -G+
 03355-Sing me a song of the Islands/Blue shadows White gardenias; -E+
 03604-Welcome to my dreams/It's anybody's Spring; -G+
 03300-You are my sunshine/Day dreaming; -E+
 03171-Mister meadowlark/San Antonio rose; -E+
 04420-Mule train/Dear hearts and gentle people; -G+

 we acknowledge with grateful thanks a donation of 5/- from member Michael Crampton of Leeds

We have great pleasure in printing part of the text of a personal TAPE RECORDED MESSAGE recieved from Bing and dated Sept 12, 1963

"Hi Frank, I'm truly regrettful that I'm so late with this tape, it should have been sent in early July, but I was out of town a great deal and everytime I was in town there was no tape equipment available, so I missed an opportunity to say hello through you and through the club to Jack Manners, Charles Graves, George O' Reilly, Les Gaylor, Stan White, Fred Reynolds and all the other boys and the young ladies too, but I'm hoping that a further opportunity will be developed when you'll have some of them at least on hand and you can play this tape and in that way I'll be able to transmitt my greetings to them.

I'm off to St Paul today to play in a big golf tournament which they've developed to help plug the annual telecast from Pebble Beach. Every amatuer in the country who desires, plays a round of golf then turns in his score, deducts his handicap and then I play a round at St Paul the headquarters of the sponser and whoever beats me gets a trip to Pebble Beach to see the tournament, and if they are a low enough handicap and play well enough they get to participate in the tournament. In addition there are hundreds of other prizes like cameras, tape recording equipment and other things which are made by the Minnesota Mining people and which are very attractive gifts indeed, its developed into quite an exploitation and tremendous interest in the country, and I guess they have several thousand entries. I hav'nt really checked lately, but everybody connected with the exploitation and the idea is very happy about it, so I think its going to develop a real interest for the telecast when it comes off early in January. Well thats the tape Frank, late as it is its just by way of saying thanks to every body and hello and greetings to all - take care of yourselves and this is Bing saying Goodbye to all"

on this wonderful tape message Bing also talked about his new record plans for Reprise and his obvious pride at Kathryn's success in the play in Indianapolis. The whole message is to go on Tape Crosby and theres a possibility it may be issued as a club disc - details later.